

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

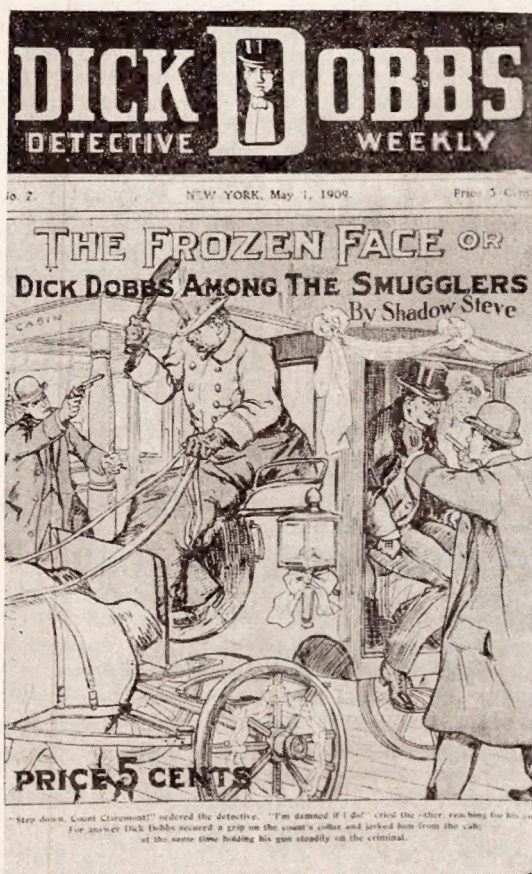
Vol. 26 No. 11

November 15, 1958

Whole No. 314

## On Stage, Mr. Carter

by J. Edward Leithead



Cover of #7 Dick Dibbs Detective Weekly  
a short-lived competitor of the Nick Carter Weekly



## On Stage, Mr. Carter

by J. Edward Leithead

The recent Dime Novel Club reprint of Nick Carter Library No. 1, "Nick Carter, Detective" (and a good job it was, reprinting that one), leads to speculation as to the writer who signs himself "By a Celebrated Author." Quentin Reynolds, in his fine book about Street & Smith, "The Fiction Factory" (Random House, Inc.), says it was Frederic Marmaduke Van Rensselaer Dey (page 65).

I have read this novel, not having seen it before, and I can fully agree that it is by Mr. Dey. There is no mistaking his style and rhythm. He was the best "Nick Carter" writer of them all, and there were some good ones. Mr. Reynolds states (page 63) "that Dey was a good friend of Inspector Byrnes, Deputy Police Commissioner Faurot, and other ranking members of the New York City Police." And on the back page of this novel originally issued August 8, 1891 is this reference to Inspector Byrnes:

"The opening number of our 'Nick Carter Detective Library' will describe the phenomenal detective work of Inspector Byrnes' eighteen carat squad. Famous Nick Carter heads the list, and we have identified his name with our library as a happy augury of success."

And this first story of a series that ran 282 issues begins with a case

brought to Nick by the famous inspector, the hard-to-solve murder of a beautiful danseuse:

"Nick Carter was at home when the inspector called, and he received him as he would have received no other man, in the whole city of New York; in his own proper person. One of the cardinal points of Nick's faith in himself was that by keeping himself entirely unknown to everybody his various disguises were rendered absolutely impenetrable.

"I am glad to see you, inspector," was his greeting to the chief. 'Sit down, help yourself to a cigar and we will talk it over, for I suppose you are here on business.'

"You are right, Nick."

"You never come unless there is something of importance on hand. What is it to-night?"

"The Eugenie La Verde affair."

Yes, this is Fred Dey writing. And it proves he was doing "Nick Carters" somewhat earlier than I had previously believed. It would even have him writing the Nick Carter short stories (or some of them) published in the New York Weekly, a long series of over 100 (supposed to be in each week but occasionally omitted) beginning Sept. 1, 1894, with "The Detective's Pretty Neighbor" and ending Oct. 31, 1896, with "The

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Vice-Consul's Adventure." After the three serials by John Russell Coryell, "The Old Detective's Pupil," "A Wall Street Haul" and "Fighting Against Millions" proved so popular, Ormond G. Smith wisely wanted to continue Nick Carter's career.

Although Dey started off the Nick Carter Library, he had some help along its course from Thomas W. Hanchew, Eugene T. Sawyer and Thomas C. Harbaugh. But we can now be sure Dey originated the "Doctor Quartz" tales, the first series of which was published in Nick Carter Library #13, "3,000 Miles by Freight, or, The Mystery of a Piano Box," #14, "The Thirteen's Oath of Vengeance, or, A Criminal Compact" and #15, "The Fate of Doctor Quartz, or, The Murder in the Dissecting Room." He revived Dr. Quartz in a new series when writing for the color cover Nick Carter Weekly, #413, "Doctor Quartz, the Second, or, The Great Freight Car Mystery," #414, "Doctor Quartz, the Second, at Bay, or, A Man of Iron Nerve," #415, "The Great Hotel Murders, or, Doctor Quartz's Quick Move," and more about Quartz and a woman associate, Zanoni, for six additional issues. Once again Dey brought Quartz to life in #692, "Doctor Quartz Again," and Nick had his troubles with the wily doctor for six more issues. There is an isolated Quartz tale in #126 Nick Carter Library, "The Heir of Dr. Quartz, or, Nick Carter's Game of Plots," and this was reprinted in Nick Carter Weekly when all the Doctor Quartz stories from the Library and the Weekly itself (except the last series of six beginning with #692) were reprinted in #779 through #795, seventeen consecutive numbers. If you want to read the very last three stories about Nick and Quartz (new stories, but I do not know by whom), you will have to locate three far back issues of Detective Story Magazine. The issue for December 11, 1926, contained the novelette, "Doctor Quartz Returns"; December 25th, "Nick Carter Corners Doctor Quartz"; January 22, 1927, "Nick Carter's Danger Trail." These are the only Quartz

tales not written by Fred Dey, but all the familiar names and faces are there—Nick, Chick, Patsy and Ida Jones.

Dey also authored the startling "Dazaar series" in Nick Carter Week-

Earlier, when writing for the Nick Carter Library, Dey must have found time for a serial or two for the New York Weekly, since Quentin Reynolds describes a Nick Carter story on pp. 65-67 of his book that, although he does not give the title, is undoubtedly "Tracked Across the Atlantic, or, Nick Carter After the Smugglers" (New York Weekly Vol. 47, No. 49). After serialization it was reprinted as #4 of the 10-cent Magnet Library, which started publication in 1897. The master criminal in this one, Livingston Carruthers (Dey had a habit of resurrecting certain villains) reappeared in new stories in Nick Carter Weekly. I think he came to his final end by falling from a balloon in #609 "The Balloon Tragedy."

Dey didn't create Nick Carter, but he did Chick, later Nick's adopted son and first assistant, introducing him as a fourteen-year-old waif of Nevada in #4 Nick Carter Library, "One Against Twenty-one, or, The Ranch Robbery." He may have created Patsy, Nick's second assistant, too, but I have never understood the switch in Patsy's name from Murphy to Garvan. He was apparently the same lad.

A series about Patsy, alternating with tales of Nick himself (the latter mostly reprints from earlier issues of the Library), began with #215, "Worse Than Murder, or, Nick Carter's Second Assistant on the Suburban Robberies." There followed #216 "Brockwell, the Counterfeiter, or, Patsy in Uncle Sam's Secret Service," then #218, "Patsy's Clever Capture," #220, "Patsy and the Mountain Outlaw," #222, "Patsy Among the Nihilists," #224, "Patsy's Fight With the Professor," #226, "Patsy in Russia," #228, "Patsy in England," #230 "Patsy At Home Again," #232, "Patsy in the William Street Den" and twenty-five more with Patsy's name



in the title.

Most of these Patsy Murphy stories were reprinted, two or three to the volume, in Magnet Library #39, "Among the Counterfeiters," #43, "Among the Nihilists," #49, "At Odds With Scotland Yard," #53, "An Accidental Password," #56, "At Thompson's Ranch," #59, "A Millionaire Partner," #65, "Found on the Beach," #68, "The Double Shuffle Club" and perhaps others.

The surname of "Murphy" clung to Patsy over into Nick Carter Weekly for awhile, usually in reprints from the Library; but in stories identified as Fred Dey's in the later weekly he became Patsy Garvan and married a beautiful South American girl, Adelina, who was a born actress, particularly adept at disguises, and grew to be a valuable assistant to the chief, Nick Carter.

So, possibly, Patsy was not Fred Dey's brain-child. But Joseph, Nick's astute valet, was, and Joseph got on the cover of a novel—#15 Nick Carter Stories, "Jack Dreen's Secret"—where he is shown pitching a criminal headfirst down Nick's front steps on Madison Avenue. Another Dey creation was Ten-Ichi, Nick's Japanese assistant and a son of the Mikado; and Ida Jones, the female detective may also have been, for she first appeared in #68 Nick Carter Library, "Her Shrewd Double, or, Nick Carter's Lady Assistant at Work." She was featured again in #185 Nick Carter Library, "Ida, the Woman Detective, or, Nick Carter's Assistant in a New Role." The accomplished Miss Jones appeared all too infrequently. The stories about her in the Library were reprinted, in the Weekly, in #91 "Nick Carter in Harness, or, The Stolen Safe Combination" and #92, "An Attempt to Bunco Nick Carter, or, Barking Up the Wrong Tree." Not only were the titles changed, but the issue introducing Ida Jones (originally "Her Shrewd Double") was printed last instead of first. Also, these were two of four large-sized issues, 8x11½, in a long run of small-sized Nick Carters, 7x10. Ida Jones was in Russia with Nick in #270, "Nick Carter

and the Nihilists," #271, "Nick Carter in the Convict Gang," #272, "Nick Carter and the Guilty Governor." She again assisted Nick in #662, "A Tragedy of the Bowery," #663, "Four Scraps of Paper" and #664, "The Secret of the Mine." The last three at least were Fred Dey at his best.

Dey was first to call Nick the "Little Giant" in #3 Nick Carter Library. The name stuck throughout each successive Nick Carter series. The detective was supposed to be somewhat below average height but extremely powerful, was compared to the famous strong man, Eugene Sandow, with whom, in fact, he appeared on the cover of #384, "The Little Giant's Double, or, The World's Two Strongest Men."

Nick resided at an unmentioned number on Madison Avenue, New York City. Quentin Reynolds, in his "The Fiction Factory," says (page 66), that the publishers were opposed to Nick's marrying, as it might cause a falling off in reader interest. But the son of Seth Carter was very much married, from Coryell's first serial, "The Old Detective's Pupil," in 1886, up to the "Dazaar series" by Fred Dey in 1904. During Nick's recurrent pursuit, arrest and re-arrest of elusive Dazaar, the Devil Worshipper, Ethel Carter, nee Dalton, was murdered. Afterward Nick employed a housekeeper, Mrs. Peters, to manage his Madison Avenue home.

(to be continued)

## NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings  
Fisherville, Mass.

Aug. 16th Ed LeBlanc of Fall River, came up and took me over to Northboro, and picked up Bill Burns of Rockland, Maine, who came down there for the reunion of his brothers and sisters, and we all went to Fall River and we spent the evening talking over old times and so forth into the wee hours of morning before we went to bed.

Bill sure enjoyed looking over Ed's



collection, and of the neat way he has them, on shelves, and packed up neatly, some different than the sloppy way I have them, with all the room I have, and still I don't have the room. Guess I need a large mill or other. Anyway, I'm sure Bill enjoyed it here, for Ed has a lot of old timers I don't have, and I have a lot he doesn't have, so we're 50-50 I guess. That's what makes it interesting. We all did some trading with Bill, and I'm sure all of us received something in return that we liked. Bill left for home Monday morning, by way of Boston.

Fred Lee writes, "I don't think I will ever tire of the old-time novels. I saw my very first one way back on July 16, 1901, just 57 years ago yesterday! My dear mother, God bless her, brought it home that day, and I have been a novel "convert" ever since. But the Liberty Boys and Tip Top Weekly were the only ones I was allowed to read during my school career. All the others came after I matured. I have a fine copy of that first one, Liberty Boys of '76 No. 33 and that is one that I will never part with."

James A. Shanley, 1666 Boulevard, New Haven, Conn., is offering \$100 (one hundred dollars) for No. 85 King Kelly, the Boston Catcher, in the New York Five Cent Library. Anyone got a copy? If so, better write to him—if I had one, I'd sell it quick, for that kind of money you bet!

W. R. Johnson asks if I ever saw any of Street & Smith's Frank Merriwell, Ted Strong and others in the moving pictures. No I haven't, not that I know of, nor any of the Frank Touseys either. I peddled milk and farmed it in those days, and being away from town, I couldn't go when any thing like those pictures were at the theatre in town. (Farmersville, Mass., to be exact, the only moving picture house in this section, later on they built one in Fisherville.) Bro. Johnson is hoping J. P. Guinon visits him before he goes on his vacation, as he wants to meet him very badly, as he hardly ever sees any one way

out there in Oklahoma, from the Brotherhood.

Jesse James, My Father, by Jesse James, Jr., and published by Frederick Fell, 386 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. is the latest in Western Americana. 12 mo. 8, 198 pages, illustrated, sells for \$3.50. This is a facsimile of the original, brought out by Wm. F. Kelleher, so I understand, I've never seen it so I don't know what it looks like. Originals I've had, but not the later one.

Don Learnard says he guesses Liberty Boys of '76 No. 361 were printed by the millions, as every one seems to have a fine copy of it. Makes me think of no. 7 of Dick Dobbs Detective Weekly and Western Weekly No. 74 that so many were printed.

I can furnish all Roundups from Nos. 1 to 237, if any one wants them.

We can't kick too much on the weather, as it's been very nice, except for a few days of snappy, frosty weather. Won't be long before the nice white soft snow will be blowing around. Hope it comes and goes very quickly, you bet.

Oh, was the complete list of Munros 10c Novels a beauty? I'll say it was, and I know Dennis spent lots and lots of time compiling that list, how well I know. We all have lots to be thankful for and to thank him as well, also to Ralph F. Adimari for the fine article on Wm. J. Benners, for he did a fine job of it too, and others we don't want to forget their fine articles as well. Also the nice for sale ads of all kinds of dime and nickel novels and story papers for sale. Makes my mouth water. Don't it yours?

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#### EXCHANGE COLUMN

Wanted—Fame and Fortune No. 27  
181. Beadles Dime Liby. No. 102, 477.  
Secret Service No. 189, 221. Will pay cash or trade Secret Service, Frank Reades, tc. W. R. Johnson, 416 Wheeler, Ardmore, Okla.

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**MENTION THIS MAGAZINE  
WHEN ANSWERING ADS**



## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

116. Walter E. Brown, 296 Appletree Drive, Levittown, Pa. (New address)  
 210. Frank Schott, 3809 N. 36th St., Milwaukee 16, Wis. (New member)  
 211. B. C. Crews, Jr., Library Dept., Agricultural & Tech. College, Greensboro, N. C. (New member)  
 212. Fort Hays Kansas State College, Forsyth Library, Hays, Kansas (New member)  
 213. Henry Sussman, 3980 Hillman Ave., Bronx 63, N. Y. (New member)  
 214. David Gizer, 209 Avenue P., Brooklyn, N. Y. (New member)  
 215. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Serials Division, 383 Franklin St., Buffalo 2, N. Y. (New member)

## FOR SALE

Pluck and Luck No. 26—\$1. Buffalo Bill Stories Nos. 489, 91, 51—60c each. Old Sleuth Library No. 101—\$1. Boys Best Weekly No. 39—60c. Link Rover Library No. 1—\$1. No. 2—60c. Bowery Boy Library No. 5—\$1. Nos. 89, 6 60c each. Work and Win Nos. 98, 280, 50—75c each. Frank Reade Weekly Nos. 2, 6, 20, 12, 15, 21, 18—\$4.50 each. Wild West Weekly Nos. 700, 621, 332 75c each. Dick Dobbs Detective Wkly. No. 7—75c. Motor Stories No. 2—75c. All Sports Lbry. Nos. 3—60c. Nos. 2—60c. James Boys Wkly. Nos. 121, 112, 118, 114, 119—\$4 each. All Sports Lry. Nos. 56, 48—75c each. Young Klondike No. 10—\$3. Diamond Dick Wkly. Nos. 610, 472—\$1 each. Beadles ½ Dime Lbry. Nos. 770, a Deadwood Dick story—\$1. Nugget Lbry. No. 83—\$1. Beadles Dime Lbry. Nos. 58, 52—\$1 each. New York Detective Lbry. No. 542, a James Boys story—\$4. Rough Rider Wkly. Nos. 83, 108—\$1 each. Tip Top Wkly. No. 108—\$1. All Around Wkly. No. 7—\$1. Secret Service Nos. 513, 566—\$1 each. No. 849—75c. New York Detective Lbry. Nos. 452, 525, Old King Brady stories—\$2.50 each. Nick Carter Wkly. No. 580—75c. Frank Manley Wkly. No. 5—75c. Might and Main Nos. 78, 80—75c. Buffalo Bill Stories No. 198—\$1. New York Detective Lbry. Nos. 133, 201, 235—\$1.25 ea.

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Statement required by the Act of August 24, 1912 as amended by the Acts of Mar. 3, 1933 and July 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) Showing the Ownership, Management and Circulation of

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1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher Edward T. LeBlanc,  
 87 School St., Fall River, Mass.  
 Editor, Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.  
 Managing Editor, Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.  
 Business Mgr., Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.  
 2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately

thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None

Signed

Edward T. LeBlanc

Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of October, 1958.

(Seal) C. H. Camille Whitehead  
 (My commission expires May 12, 1962)



## REAL BARGAINS IN DIME AND NICKEL NOVELS

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- COMIC and FRANK READE LIBRARY:** Still have a number of these unique black and white novels. Priced from 50c to \$2.00 each according to condition.

## DIME NOVELS FOR SALE

- Work and Win #733 to 772 mostly fine, uncut, \$20.00.  
 #926 to 940, \$5.25. #1301 to 1325, \$6.25.  
 Fame and Fortune #876 to 925, \$12.50.  
 Secret Service #727 to 736, \$12.50. #976 to 988, \$12.00.  
 #1347 to 1374 (last number), \$9.00.  
 Pluck and Luck #909 to 922, \$14.00. #1084 to 1115, \$22.50.  
 #1371 to 1383, \$4.00.  
 "Frank Merriwell's Art of Physical Development," by Burt L. Standish. Merriwell Series book about Frank, Jr. Both, \$1.00.  
 Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper (1862) #191 to 316 (126 consecutive). Bound in three volumes. Contains first appearance of "The Maroon," by Capt. Mayne Reid, with 23 steel engravings illustrating this story. \$12.50.  
 Avocations (Lindquist). First 21 numbers (1937-1939). Similar to "Hobbies," illustrated. All published. \$4.00.  
 Wild West Weekly (Street & Smith magazine). Nearly all in 1931 to 1941, and a few in 1927 to 1930. 50c each.  
 Puck (humor, cartoons). Bound volumes. Jan. 6, to July 27, 1904, \$6.00. August 3 to Dec. 28, \$4.40. Both, \$10.00. 1905 Aug. 2 to 1906 Jan. 24, some clippings out, \$2.50. 1906 Jan. 31 to July 25. \$5.00.  
 Life (Humor, cartoons) Bound volumes. 1886, lacks a few pages, \$7.50. 1887, 1888, \$10.00 each. 1889 some covers omitted, \$7.50. (52 weekly issues in each volume of Life).

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